

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The purposes of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is to promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible goals; optimize environmental benefits; and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

EQIP is a continuous sign-up, voluntary, conservation program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that provides financial and technical assistance for approved conservation practices based on a current conservation plan.

In order to be considered eligible for EQIP the applicant must have a vested interest in production agricultural or non-industrial private forest land and meet other program eligibility requirements.

About the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative

NRCS California is offering assistance through EQIP to California farmers to combat the European Grapevine Moth (EGVM). In the fourth year of the program, NRCS is offering Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools to prevent isolated pest finds from becoming a widespread infestation.

Eligible counties in California for this initiative include: Sonoma and Napa.

Eligible farmers are those located within 500 meters of a recorded trapping of EGVM. Treatment options available for financial assistance under this program are the use of chemicals compatible with the IPM system approved for EGVM. Financial assistance can be offered to implement Integrated Pest Management practices for up to 3 years.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) established EGVM treatment timeframes and start dates by county. Due to temperature differences between the areas, there will be some overlap of treatment timing. The first generation treatment timeline is April 2 to June 22 and the second generation timeline is June 17 to August 21.

CDFA EGVM Treatment Start-Dates by County:

<u>County</u>	<u>1st Generation Start-Date</u>	<u>2nd Generation Start-Date</u>
Napa	April 16	June 30
Sonoma	April 27	July 10

Additional information on EGVM is available from:

- APHIS at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/eg_moth/index.shtml
- CDFA at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/egvm/index.html>.

Submitting an EQIP Application

Interested applicants may apply for EQIP by completing the application, Form NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application, and submitting the application to the NRCS field office in person, by phone, email, or fax in the county which you own land or have an agricultural operation.

Interested owners and/or operators of land managed for agricultural in Sonoma and Napa counties may be eligible for the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative.

For more information about the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative and about conservation planning assistance please contact the field office in the county which you own land or manage cropland or pastureland.

Requesting Conservation Planning Assistance

Interested applicants are encouraged to request conservation planning and technical assistance from a local NRCS field office to help with the development of a conservation plan; the basis for any EQIP application is a conservation plan. Some of the benefits of developing a customized conservation plan include: helping you to comply with environmental regulations; preparing you for various conservation programs opportunities and identifying immediate or potential resource problems that could hurt your production.

How EQIP Works

EQIP initiatives are funding opportunities created to assure funds are available to resource priorities across various land use types, for special emphasis resource needs and to assure that underserved groups have access to assistance.

An EQIP initiative is a ranking and funding pool where similar applications are evaluated. Applications for an EQIP initiative will be evaluated based on screening and ranking criteria that consider the benefits of planned conservation practices as identified by local, state and national priorities. The basis for an EQIP application is a conservation plan.

Please contact your local NRCS field office about EQIP eligibility and the application process or visit http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip_program_eligibility.html and http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/how_to_apply_for_eqip.html.

Program payments are limited to \$300,000 a person or entity for all contracts entered into during any six-year period. This limitation includes unpaid prior year contract obligations as of October 1, 2008, as well as new contract obligations. For the purpose of applying this requirement, the six-year period will include those payments made in fiscal years 2009-2014.

Approved NRCS Land Uses

Only approved NRCS land uses are eligible for the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative. Approved land uses are:

- Cropland

Approved NRCS Resource Concerns

Only approved NRCS resource concerns are eligible for the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative. Approved resource concerns are:

Water Quality

- Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water
- Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater

Approved NRCS Conservation Practices

Only approved NRCS conservation practices are eligible for financial assistance through the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative. Table 1 lists practices approved for the initiative.

Available Integrated Pest Management (IPM) options per county are dependent on established priorities, but generally include University of California, IPM Single Pest or Year-Round Program, Substitution of Soft Chemicals and/or Pheromone Mating Disruption.

Table 1. Eligible Conservation Practices for the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative

Practice Code	Practice Name	Practice Scenario*
595	Integrated Pest Management	Key Pest System: Treatment of a Single Pest under the UC IPM Program
595	Integrated Pest Management	Comprehensive System: Treatment of All Significant Pests under the UC IPM Year-Round Program

* Scenarios labeled ‘Year Round’ require a comprehensive program for grapes; other scenarios require following the Pest Management Guidelines for EGVM only. See UC IPM web site for more information on these systems at:

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/selectnewpest.grapes.html>

For more information about NRCS conservation practices visit http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/technical/?cid=NRCSDEV11_001020 the website link for all NRCS conservation practice standards.

Application Screening Criteria for the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative

The purpose of screening criteria is to prioritize applications into ‘High’, ‘Medium’ or ‘Low’ categories prior to application ranking. All eligible applications for the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative will be screened and applications in the ‘High’ priority category will be ranked. ‘Medium’ priority applications will be ranked only if funding is available. An application screening worksheet is included at the end of this document and will be used by NRCS to screen applications submitted for the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative; the following is for reference.

High Priority Category:

- Grapes (any part of a field) within 500 meters of established moth sightings.

Low Priority Category:

- Grapes greater than 500 meters of established moth sightings.

Application Ranking Criteria for the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative

The purpose of the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative ranking criteria is to evaluate the environmental benefits of conservation treatments included in an EQIP application, i.e. the EQIP schedule of operations and conservation plan. An application ranking score is based on national, state and local ranking criteria and the cost-efficiency of conservation practices in the EQIP application. The cost-efficiency score is based upon broad averages of the cost and environmental benefits of each practice in the EQIP application.

The following sections list the national, state and local ranking criteria for the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative and are provided for reference; applications will be evaluated electronically by NRCS using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT).

National Ranking Criteria

Only questions 2, 8 and 9 are applicable to the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative; all other questions will be answered “No” in the AERT.

- 1) If the application is for development of a **Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)**, the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.
 - a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.
- 2) **Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality** - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:
 - a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?

- b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?
 - c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?
- 3) **Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation** - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:
 - a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?
 - b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?
 - c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?
- 4) **Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources** - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:
 - a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?
 - b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide), CH₄ (Methane), and N₂O (Nitrous Oxide)?
 - c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?
- 5) **Soil Health:** Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:
 - a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?
 - b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?
- 6) **Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation** - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:
 - a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?
 - b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?
- 7) **High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities:** Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:
 - a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?
 - b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?
 - c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?
 - d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?
 - e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?
 - f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?

- 8) **Energy Conservation** - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:
- Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?
 - Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?
 - Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?
- 9) **Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations** - Will the proposed project result in:
- Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?
 - Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?
 - Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?

State Ranking Criteria

All questions are applicable to the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative.

1) **State Category One - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water** (Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment includes "Management Practices" that will minimize or eliminate the use of high-risk pesticides where the hazard rating will be reduced from "Extra High" or "High" to at least "Intermediate" according to the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST), the tool can be found at www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/winpst.html, and the treatment area is located:

- "Directly adjacent to a surface water body" listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category "Pesticides". The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- "Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary" that flows into a surface water body listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category "Pesticides". The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- "Directly adjacent to a blue line stream" as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.
- "Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary" that flows into a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.

2) **State Category Two - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water** (Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment includes "Management Practices" that will minimize or eliminate the use of pesticides where the hazard rating will be reduced from "Intermediate" to at least "Very Low" according to the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST), the tool can be found at www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/winpst.html, and the treatment area is located:

- a. "Directly adjacent to a surface water body" listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category "Pesticides". The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- b. "Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary" that flows into a surface water body listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for the pollutant category "Pesticides". The Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List is found at the State Water Resources Control Board website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2010.shtml
- c. "Directly adjacent to a blue line stream" as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.
- d. "Directly adjacent to a ditch, canal or tributary" that flows into a blue line stream as marked on a USGS topographic 7.5-minute, 1:24,000-scale quadrangle series map.

3) **State Category Three - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater** (Select "Yes" to Only One Question)

Conservation treatment includes "Management Practices" and the treatment area is located within:

- a. A Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area as determined by the California State Water Resources Control, "Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Areas and High Use Groundwater Basins," map (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/hydro_areas.pdf)
- b. A High Use Ground Water Basin Area, but not a Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Area as determined by the California State Water Resources Control, "Hydrogeologically Vulnerable Areas and High Use Groundwater Basins," map (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/docs/hydro_areas.pdf)

Local Ranking Criteria

All questions are applicable to the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative.

1) **Local Category One - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Surface Water**

- a. Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is a Comprehensive System, and the practice is planned for three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.
- b. Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is a Comprehensive System, and the practice is

- planned for less than three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.
- c. Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is a Key System, and the practice is planned for three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.
 - d. Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is a Key System, and the practice is planned for less than three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.

2) Local Category Two - WATER QUALITY: Harmful Levels of Pesticides in Groundwater

- a. Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is a Comprehensive System, and the practice is planned for three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.
- b. Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is a Comprehensive System, and the practice is planned for less than three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.
- c. Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is a Key System, and the practice is planned for three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.
- d. Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is a Key System, and the practice is planned for less than three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.



**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Fiscal Year 2013 EQIP Program Information
European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative**

Contact a NRCS Field Office

For more information about the European Grapevine Moth EQIP Initiative and about conservation planning assistance please contact the field office in the county which you own land or manage cropland.

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